

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 1145

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAYER.

Read 1st time February 28, 2006, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5241S.02I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 41, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri national guard members, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 41, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 41.219, to read as follows:

41.219. 1. There is hereby established the "Guard at Home" program, with the purposes of:

(1) Assisting the spouse of an active duty Missouri national guard member or reservist to address immediate financial and employment needs in order to help prevent the member's family from falling into poverty while the primary income-earner is on active duty;

(2) Assisting the returned national guard troop members to reenter the workforce in situations where the member needs to rebuild a business clientele, or when the member's job has been eliminated while he or she was deployed.

2. Subject to appropriation, the department of economic development shall enter into a contract with a qualified provider, as described herein, to implement the "Guard at Home" program. The department shall develop the criteria of the contract based on the guidelines provided in this subsection. Eligible participants in the program shall be those families in which:

(1) The primary income-earner was called to active duty in defense of the United States for a period of more than four months;

(2) The family's primary income is no longer available;

(3) The family is experiencing significant hardship due to financial burdens; and

22 (4) The family has no outside resources available to assist with
23 such hardships.

24 3. Services that may be provided to the family will be aimed at
25 ameliorating the immediate financial crisis and providing a path for
26 economic stability while the primary income is not available due to
27 active military commitment. Services may include, but are not limited
28 to, the following:

29 (1) Financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from
30 overdue bills due to reduced income after the deployment of a spouse
31 or parent;

32 (2) Assistance with the payment of daycare costs in order for the
33 guard member's spouse to pursue training, or employment, or both;

34 (3) Assistance with transportation costs due to training, or
35 employment, or both;

36 (4) Vocational evaluation and vocational counseling to help the
37 individual choose a viable employment goal;

38 (5) Vocational training to acquire or upgrade skills needed to be
39 marketable in the workforce;

40 (6) Paid internships and subsidized employment to provide on-
41 the-job-training;

42 (7) Job placement assistance for those who do not require skills
43 training.

44 4. The department shall ensure the eligible provider is a:

45 (1) Community-based not for profit agency which has significant
46 experience in job training, placement, and social services;

47 (2) Provider with extensive experience providing such services
48 to veterans and implementing contracts with veteran organizations
49 such as the department of veteran affairs;

50 (3) Provider with a substantial presence in southeast Missouri,
51 southwest Missouri, and the St. Louis metropolitan area;

52 (4) Provider which has attained the distinction of being
53 accredited through a national accreditation body for job training or
54 human services, or both;

55 (5) Provider which is able to provide a twenty percent match to
56 the program through direct or indirect expenditures; and

57 (6) Provider with experience in the regions targeted for the
58 program.

59 **5. The department shall structure the contract such that**
60 **payment will be based on delivering said services as well as**
61 **performance to guarantee the greatest possible effectiveness of the**
62 **program.**

63 **6. Subject to appropriation, the "Guard at Home" program shall**
64 **be designed to focus on serving one hundred families living in**
65 **southeast Missouri and southwest Missouri, which may also include**
66 **families living in the St. Louis metropolitan area.**

67 **7. The department shall prepare a report on the operations and**
68 **progress of the program, to be delivered to the speaker of the house**
69 **and the president pro tem of the senate, no later than January 1, 2007.**

70 **8. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:**

71 **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this**
72 **section shall automatically sunset six years after the effective date of**
73 **this section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and**

74 **(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized**
75 **under this section shall automatically sunset twelve years after the**
76 **effective date of the reauthorization of this section; and**

77 **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the**
78 **calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the**
79 **program authorized under this section is sunset.**

 Section B. Because of the important nature of this program to the health
2 and welfare of Missourians, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the
3 immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace and safety, and is
4 hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution,
5 and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect on July 1, 2006. The
6 department shall make every reasonable effort to ensure the program is servicing
7 families by August 1, 2006.

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